

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A frame saw system for cutting a block of granite, marble, or masonry material, comprising:

a plurality of spaced apart, substantially parallel blades connected to a frame; and

at least one support structure of unifying material supplied perpendicularly across the blades and adhering to at least one of the blades for keeping the blades in fixed relative positions;

wherein the support structure is ~~capable of being removed or pulled away~~ from the frame saw system as the blades are engaged in cutting.

2. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure forms an integral cohesive mass with the saw blades.

3. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure comprises a polymeric foam.

4. (Currently Amended) The frame saw system of claim 3, wherein the polymeric foam includes a material selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a polyethylene, and a polystyrene, a polyvinyl, an acrylate, a cellophane, and a cellulosic material.

5. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure is applied in a fluidic form and cures to form a cohesive mass bonding to at least one of the blades.

6. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the blades are connected on both ends to the frame by tensioning rods.

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7. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, further comprising clamps which contact the two outermost blades of the parallel blades in the frame saw.

8. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 7, wherein the clamps comprise a plate, bolts tightened against the plate, and adjustable vertical mounts.

9. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the blades comprise superabrasive-containing segments.

10. (Currently Amended) A frame saw system for cutting a block of granite, marble, or masonry material, comprising:

a plurality of spaced apart, substantially parallel blades connected to a frame;

a plurality of spacers located longitudinally between the blades wherein the spaces keep the blades in fixed relative positions and wherein the spacers are removed or pulled away from the frame saw system as the blades are engaged in cutting; and

clamps which contact the two outermost blades of the parallel blades in the frame saw.

11. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the clamps comprise a plate, bolts tightened against the plate, and adjustable vertical mounts.

12. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the spacers comprise a polymeric foam.

13. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the blades are connected on both ends to the frame by tensioning rods.

14. (Original) The frame saw system of claim 10, wherein the blades comprise superabrasive-containing segments.

15-36. (Cancelled).

37. (New) The frame saw system of claim 1, wherein the support structure comprises a polymeric or non-polymeric non-foam material selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a latex, a polyvinyl, an acrylate, a cellophane, and a cellulosic material.

38. (New) A frame saw system for cutting a block of granite, marble, or masonry material, comprising:

a plurality of spaced apart, substantially parallel blades connected to a frame; and

at least one support structure of unifying material supplied perpendicularly across the blades and adhering to at least one of the blades for keeping the blades in fixed relative positions, wherein the support structure comprises a polymeric foam; and

wherein the support structure is removed or pulled away from the frame saw system as the blades are engaged in cutting.

39. (New) The frame saw system of claim 38, wherein the polymeric foam includes a material selected from the group consisting of a polyurethane, a polyethylene, and a polystyrene.

40. (New) The frame saw system of claim 38, wherein the support structure is applied in a fluidic form and cures to form a cohesive mass bonding to at least one of the blades.